

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Human Services

PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
PRE-KINDERGARTEN INCENTIVE PROGRAM
RFA# 0530-05
Pre-Kindergarten for 375 District Children

The OECD is a unit of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The OECD is the lead agency in the District of Columbia responsible for providing early care and education services for District of Columbia children six (6) weeks through twelve (12) years of age and through age 18 if the child has a disability.

The Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program will offer the opportunity for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and DHS to forge a partnership with the goal to ensure that 375 4-year old District of Columbia children, currently deprived of child development and early education services, receive in community-based settings, the same benefit of quality early education as their peers enjoy in public school pre-k classrooms.

DHS/OECD will invite the submission of applications for funding through a Memorandum of Understanding between DCPS and DHS/OECD.

Grants will be provided to staff to train, and equip 24 classrooms in community-based settings in wards throughout the District for up to sixteen (16) District children in each classroom. The OECD will accept applications from private and non-profit pre-school and Head Start programs. Priority will be given to programs that are currently accredited or have submitted application for accreditation. Centers that are moving toward accreditation may also apply and may be eligible for technical assistance.

DHS/OECD seeks to fund multiple grant awards. Under this initiative, a maximum of \$3,350,000 is available for this purpose. Individual grant awards will be based on the number of children served in each of 24 classrooms to be funded, up to a maximum of 16 children per classroom. The OECD will fund grant awards averaging \$8,724 per child for the year or approximately \$140,000 per classroom.

For further information, please contact: Jason Hopkins, Program Manager, Office of Early Childhood Development, on (202) 727-1839.

Applicants are encouraged to attend a pre-application conference scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2005, from 10:00 – 12:30 p.m. at the Office of Early Childhood Development, 717 14th Street, NW, Eighth Floor Conference Room. Please RSVP to Jason Hopkins, Program Manager, Office of Early Childhood Development, on (202) 727-1839.

The deadline for responses to this RFA is 3:30 p.m. on Monday, May 30, 2005.

The Request for Application (RFA) will be available on Friday, April 22, 2005. Applications may be obtained from Ms. Priscilla Burnett (at the DHS Office of Grants Management, 64 New York Avenue, NE, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC., or from the Office of Partnerships and Grants Development website, www.opgd.dc.gov, District Grants Clearinghouse or the